

Message Text

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43

ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CU-02 SY-05 /021 W

----- 117688

P R 251245Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8794

INFO AMCONSUL ISFAHAN UNN

AMCONSUL SHIRAZ UNN

AMCONSUL TABRIZ UNN

INS WASHDC

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PASS: INS WASHDC/COINT FOR MR. JONGHANS AND COINV FOR MR. BERO

DEPARTMENT FOR VO

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CVIS IR

SUB: POSSIBLE IMPROPER ISSUANCE OF I-20'S

REF: (A) STATE 202534 (B) TEHRAN 8512

1. UPDATE ON I-20 SCENE: SINCE RECEIPT OF REFTEL (A) EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED TWENTY APPLICATIONS USING SAME MODUS OPERENDI DESCRIBED REFTEL (B). APPLICANTS ADMIT WHEN QUESTIONED THEY PURCHASED I-20'S LOCALLY THROUGH OFFICE OF MORTEZA NOSRAT WHOSE BUSINESS STATIONERY BILLS HIM QUOTE OFFICIAL TRANSLATOR TO MINISTRY OF JUSTICE UNQUOTE WHOSE ADDRESS IS SAME AS ADDRESS FOR THE MR. KAGHAZCHI GIVEN TO EMBOFFS LAST WEEK DURING QUESTIONING OF RICKER COLLEGE APPLICANTS. ALL APPLICANTS HAVE REPEATED ESSENTIALLY SAME STORY REPORTED REFTEL (B). THEY HAVE HEARD ABOUT AVAILABILITY OF I-20'S BY WORD OF MOUTH OR SEEN ADVERTISEMENTS IN FARSI PRESS. SEVERAL APPLICANTS WERE TOLD BY NOSRAT TO TELL EMBASSY THEY RECEIVED I-20'S IN MAIL FROM SCHOOL OR TO GIVE EMBASSY NO INFORMATION. ONE RICKER COLLEGE APPLICANT STATED ON AUGUST 14 HE WENT TO NOSRAT'S OFFICE AND WAS INTERVIEWED BY AN AMERICAN DESCRIBED AS TALL, BALD AND FAT WHO CLAIMED TO BE PRESIDENT OR DEAN OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY AND WHO SAID

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HE WAS AUTHORIZED TO RECRUIT FOR SCHOOLS IN SEVEN STATES.

2. ON AUGUST 23 NOSRAT TELEPHONED EMBOFF FOR APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS DELAY IN PROCESSING VISAS FOR APPLICANTS WHO ARE HIS CLIENTS. SY AND CONSULAR EMBOFFS INTERVIEWED NOSRAT WHO UNWITTINGLY CORROBORATED MUCH OF ABOVE. NOSRAT STATED HE WAS AN OFFICIAL TRANSLATOR AND OWNER OF REGISTERED COMPANY RAHMOUZ OR RAHAMOUZ WHICH IS A STUDENT PLACEMENT SERVICE CURRENTLY CHARGING \$142-285 FOR PLACEMENT IN U.S. INSTITUTIONS. FYI, THIS FEE IS \$50-\$100 LESS THAN FEE APPLICANTS SAY IS BEING CHARGED. HE CONFIRMED HIS COMPANY IS "OBTAINING" I-20'S FOR ALL SCHOOLS LISTED PARAGRAPH THREE AND THAT HE HAD WORKED WITH PE ER GALONIS, FORMER MARYWOOD COLLEGE PROFESSOR NOW PROFESSOR AT A UNIVERSITY IN NEW YORK AND LIVING IN SCRANTON, PA. HE DESCRIBED GALONIS AS TALL, BALD AND HEAVY SET, WHICH IS SUBSTANTIALLY SAME DESCRIPTION GIVEN ABOVE OF AMERICAN SEEN AT NOSRAT'S OFFICE. HE SAID GALONIS HAD SHOWN HIM LETTERS FROM SCHOOLS LISTED BELOW VERIFYING THAT HE, BALONIS, WAS "AUTHORIZED RECRUITER". NOSRAT'S STORY IS THAT ORIGINALLY EIGHTY FIVE COMPLETED I-20'S FOR BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AT SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY, 501 S.W. EYE STREET, WASHINGTON, DC, WERE SENT TO HIM FOR DELIVERY BUT SOUTHEASTERN'S ACCREDITATION WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO IRANIAN MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION AND THUS STUDENTS WERE UNABLE TO GET PASSPORTS. THEREFORE SINCE STUDENTS WERE NOT ISSUED PASSPORTS, GALONIS PERSONALLY OBTAINED AND BROUGHT TO IRAN EIGHTY FIVE K-20'S FOR THREE COLLEGES IN VARIOUS FIELDS TO REPLACE FIRST GROUP. AMONG THESE I-20'S WERE ALLEGEDLY THE ONES CURRENTLY UNDER STUDY BY THE EMBASSY. NOSRAT ALSO OBTAINS LANGUAGE I-20'S FOR APPLICANTS. NOSRAT REPEATEDLY STATED THE I-20'S ARE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOLS NOT BY HIS COMPANY. HE DID NOT KNOW IF THE SCHOOLS HAD REVIEWED APPLICATIONS OR TRANSCRIPTS BEFORE "ADMITTING" THE STUDENTS. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT I-20'S WERE SIGNED BY SCHOOL OFFICIALS BUT COMPLETED ON THE SCENE.

3. NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF SCHOOLS FOR WHICH GALONIS ALLEGEDLY OBTAINED I-20'S FOR NOSRAT ARE:

- A. RICKER COLLEGE HOULTON, MAINE
- B. EMERSON COLLEGE BOSTON, MA.
- C. NICHOLS COLLEGE DUDLEY, MA.

LANGUAGE I-20'S ARE AVAILABLE FROM NOSRAT FOR THESE SCHOOLS:

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- D. SHAW INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CENTER BOSTON, MA.
- E. BOSTON SCHOOL OF MODERN LANGUAGES, BOSTON, MA.

4. NOSRAT LISTED ADDITIONAL SCHOOLS FOR WHICH I-20'S ARE PROCESSED BY HIS OFFICE:

- A. UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS OF OKLAHOMA, CHICKASHA, OK.
- B. CHOWAN COLLEGE MURFREESBORO, N.C.

- C. ARMSTRONG COLLEGE BERKELEY, CA.
- D. UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS IRVING, TX.
- E. BLINN COLLEGE BRENHAM, TX
- F. OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK.
- G. HENDERSON COUNTRY JUNIOR COLLEGE, LOCATION UNKNOWN; AND
- H. DEAN JUNIOR COLLEGE, FRANKLIN, MASS.

5. INFORMATION DEVELOPED FROM INTERVIEWS WITH APPLICANTS WITH I-20'S FOR SCHOOLS LISTED PARAGRAPH THREE SHOWS: (A) DATES I-20'S WERE SIGNED ARE PRIOR TO DATES APPLICANTS FIRST VISITED NOSRAT; (B) APPLICANTS KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT SCHOOLS INVOLVED AND FREQUENTLY ARE NOT INTERESTED IN NOR QUALIFIED FOR PURSUING COURSES OF STUDY LISTED ON I-20'S. EMBASSY SY BELIEVES (BUT CANNOT VERIFY WITHOUT LAB TESTS) MANY OF THE I-20'S FROM VARIOUS SCHOOLS WERE TYPED ON SAME TYPEWRITER, LEADING TO CONCLUSION I-20'S WERE PREPARED AT ONE LOCATION.

6. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THIS IS ONE OF LARGEST STUDENT VISA ISSUING POSTS (MORE THAN 8,000 HAVE BEEN ISSUED SINCE JUNE 1.) TO ASSIST IN COPING WITH INCREASING AND URGENT I-20 PROBLEMS THE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDELINES ON FOLLOWING POINTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED ASAP :

A. WHAT IS DEFINITION OF "IMPROPER" ISSUANCE OF I-20'S USING 22 CFR 41.45 PROCEDURES AND BASED ON OUR SITUATION?

B. DO SCHOOLS LISTED ABOVE ADMIT TO HAVING LOCAL AGENTS IN TEHRAN WHO HAVE ACCESS TO SUPPLY OF SIGNED OR UNSIGNED, COMPLETED OR BLANK I-20'S? IF SO, UNDER WHAT PROVISIONS DO SUCH AGENTS WORK? DOES INS EXERCISE CONTROL OR SUPERVISION OVER SCHOOLS' DELEGATION OF THEIR ISSUING AUTHORITY? IF NOT, ARE SUCH I-20'S BY DEFINITION "IMPROPERLY EXECUTED" AND THUS INVALID? WHAT IS DEPARTMENT'S AND INS'S INTERPRETATION OF THE ROLE OF LOCAL AGENT IN THE I-20 PROCESS?
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C. FOR THE SCHOOLS LISTED ABOVE WHEN EMBASSY KNOWS OR SUSPECTS I-20'S HAVE BEEN OBTAINED LOCALLY FOR A FEE AND WITHOUT PROPER APPLICATION TO THE SCHOOL, SHOULD EMBASSY SUSPEND ISSUANCE UNTIL DEPARTMENT AND INS DETERMINE COURSE OF ACTION?

7. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT LISTED SCHOOLS REPRESENT ONLY A FEW OF THE SCHOOLS WHICH MAY BE ISSUING I-20'S UNDER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES. FOR EXAMPLE: THERE ARE AT LEAST EIGHT TO TEN OFFICIAL (ENGLISH) TRANSLATION BUREAUS AND A LIKE NUMBER OF "UNOFFICIAL" BUREAUS WHICH ALSO MAY ASSIST STUDENTS IN PLACEMENT IN U.S. INSTITUTIONS. ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION STATISTICS, THE NUMBER OF IRANIAN STUDENTS WHO WERE NOT ACCEPTED INTO IRANIAN INSTITUTIONS THIS FALL EXCEEDS 100,000. THEREFORE, THE OPPORTUNITY EXISTS FOR UNSCRUPULOUS OPERATORS POSING AS PLACEMENT COUNSEL-

LORS TO ENTER AN AFFLUENT MARKET WHERE DEMAND GREATLY EXCEEDS SUPPLY.
WE EXPECT THE INCIDENCE OF THIS AND OTHER TYPES OF STUDENT VISA
FRAUD WILL BE ON THE INCREASE.

8. EMBASSY SY IS SENDING SEPARATE TELEGRAPHIC REPORT THROUGH SY
CHANNELS.

9. DOCUMENTATION OF ABOVE BEING FORWARDED UNDER COVER OF OM.
HELMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TEHRAN08626
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760324-0784
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760819/aaaaaqdh.tel
Line Count: 178
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION VO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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